

DUELLING FOR FUN.

Duelling not for honor, but for fun, is one of the latest pastimes indulged in by the gayest of nations. And they call it fencing with buttonless foils, do the merry Gaule, "la poule sanglante," L. e., the bloody hen. For these unsanguined poultry contests the following regulations have been laid down: "Swords with buttonless blades, face uncovered, right arm bared, ordinary kid gloves if desired, upper part of the body clothed in a vest fitting tightly to the skin, belts forbidden. Each fencer to be assisted by two sec-

Church With a Strange History.

Here is a remarkable little mediaeval church which was discovered through a dream. A young woman living in a village near Paris, in Servia, dreamed one night of a buried church. She spoke of it to the prefect and the local clergy, but they only laughed at her. She persisted in her statements, however, and ultimately induced the people to dig at a spot she indicated. Here, to the intense surprise of every one but the dreamer, the ruins of a mediaeval church were found. These were rebuilt as a tiny chapel, and since

A MISSING LINK.

Strange Animal Connecting Reptiles and Mammals.

In Permian times, which was about midway in the great geological past, there lived many strange and wild creatures belonging to the vast reptilian class. The fossil sunlight, which we call coal, was just forming in Pennsylvania and no mammal had yet trod upon this earth.

The comparatively brief period of the world's history embraced by the Permian and Trias saw some remarkable

Naval Gun Disasters

Three Recent Accidents Have Caused Loss of Life—History of the Iowa's Rifle—Was One of Victors of Santiago and Had Been Fired 185 Times Before It Exploded.

SAFEGUARDS FOR WAR SHIPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In rapid succession a number of accidents, involving loss of life directly traceable to the weapons in use, have occurred in the United States Navy.

Workmen were killed and injured on Iowa Island while unloading an eight-inch shell; the crew of the eight-inch gun turret of the battleship Massachusetts was annihilated by the premature explosion of an explosive shell and three men were killed and four wounded by the destruction of a twelve-inch gun on the battleship Iowa. Though fortunately not attended with such terrible consequences, a thirteen-inch gun on the battleship Keokuk and a thirteen-inch gun on the battleship Indiana were injured through the premature explosion of shells and had to be replaced.

These occurrences have naturally aroused the anxiety of the authorities, who have begun a most searching investigation, and the more the probe is moved about the greater becomes the certainty that so far as the equipment itself is concerned the ordnance of the Navy is as reasonably safe as may be expected. The guns, with the exception of that on the Iowa, subjected to accidents, have not been ruined.

The Iowa's twelve-inch gun is one of the oldest guns of that calibre now in service, four of them being on this battleship, four on the monitor Puritan, two on the monitor Monterey and two on the second-class battleship Texas. The gun on the Iowa which caused such damage had been fired at least thirty-five rounds more than any other of the same date of construction, so that the authorities are satisfied that the others are in no danger of causing a similar catastrophe. At the same time they were closely watched and upon the slightest evidence of strain they will probably be taken out of the ship.

THE LIFE OF A BIG GUN.

The life of a gun has never been definitely ascertained, and this is a point which many naval experts think worthy of special study by the Navy Department. Before installation on board each gun is tested at the Indian Head Proving Grounds, five rounds at high pressure being fired. Sometimes a gun is retained at the proving grounds for use in firing projectiles submitted for acceptance or for trial of inventions, one of which caused the destruction of a twelve-inch gun several years ago. Subsequently the gun is issued to the service.

Before it gave way the Iowa's gun had been fired 125 times, but no signs of stress had been reported. The fact that the barrel of the gun broke off about twenty feet from the muzzle is an indication, however, that there it was weakest, and an examination of the plans shows that at this point the gun had not the reinforcement given to the part in its rear.

The extent of the strain a twelve-inch gun suffers will be appreciated when it is known that every square inch, upon the occasion of explosion of a full charge, is required to withstand force of from fifteen to seventeen tons; in other words, it experiences the shock of receiving this weight if dropped a distance of one foot. Usually when a gun deteriorates evidence of the fact is shown by damage to the rifling, stress of the metal or even slight ruptures, but none of these signs appeared in the case of the Iowa.

THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN.

"The first indication of the weakening of a gun," Rear-Admiral O'Neill, Chief of the Ordnance in the Navy, said, "is usually the wearing out of the lining, when it becomes necessary to reline the gun. In other words, we fire a gun indefinitely until it shows enlargement of the bore or some other defect. We have small guns that have been fired more than 100 times and we will continue to fire them until the lining is worn out. All the later guns are reinforced to the muzzle."

"The Court of Inquiry which investigated the accident on board the Massachusetts reported that the ordnance equipment was entirely satisfactory. Before a gun is assembled at the gun factory, the castings are purchased by contract. These are of steel, which have been oil-tempered. All strains are supposed to be removed by annealing; that is, the tube of the gun is heated slowly and allowed to cool slowly. No one can say that all strains have been removed from the tube because it is impossible to take specimens except from the ends, and while the metal is supposed to be uniform, this cannot be stated definitely. At the same time, every precaution which human care and ingenuity can devise is taken to make the gun as safe as possible. When a gun is assembled, it is sent to the Indian Head Proving Grounds, where it is fired five times with pressures reaching as high as twenty tons. The maximum pressure to which the gun will be subjected in service is seventeen tons."

ONE OF THE VICTORS OF SANTIAGO.

"Frequently, on board of the Iowa, the members of the crew of the gun that burst were to be seen brightening it and holding their hands upon it affectionately, and in every way showing their faith in the piece. It was one of the guns that brought victory at Santiago and it was not to be spoken of save in reverent tones. The natural effect of the several accidents is to weaken the faith of the men in their guns, when this is not justified. It is a fact that every gun in the service of the United States is equal if not superior in strength to a gun of the same calibre in any foreign service. In fact, the safety of the men is one of the first regards of the Ordnance Department in planning the weapons."

There is one of the considerations entertained by Rear-Admiral O'Neill when he designed the latest models of guns, all of which produce higher velocities and therefore greater accuracy and destructive energy than the old pieces. The twelve-inch gun which will be placed on battleships under construction will fire a projectile with a velocity 1000 feet per second greater

than the old twelve-inch gun. But of equal importance is the fact that the new piece has a double steel tube and is reinforced to the muzzle, while the Iowa's guns have single tubes only and are not so well reinforced.

No change has occurred in years in the material or method of manufacture of navy guns. Those in use in the latest ships are practically of the same type as those first installed on the Atlanta, Boston and Chicago, laid down twenty-two years ago. The essential difference is due to modifications of the gun in the way of improvements of breech mechanisms, the development of better powder and the use of larger powder charges. Thus greater power, greater range, greater accuracy and greater rapidity of fire have been obtained. Rear-Admiral O'Neill says that to these qualities must be added greater safety for the men handling the weapons.

PROJECTILES OF THE NAVY.

There are four classes of projectiles in the United States Navy—armor-piercing projectiles, for use against armor; common shell, for use against unarmored, or very thinly armored parts; shrapnel, for service against exposed detachments of men a considerable distance away, and canister, which is employed against detachments of men, lacking protection, within close range.

"Shells are accepted in lots of 100," says Rear-Admiral O'Neill. "It is obviously impossible to test every shell, so three are selected from each lot. One of these is fired over the range. Another is fired through a plate the thickness of which is equal to one-half the calibre of the shell, and the third is burst in an explosion chamber, to ascertain if it breaks properly. In addition all shells are subjected to water pressure, and are inspected to determine if they are free from strains, of proper measurement and weight and are otherwise perfect."

"Nowadays the Navy has a target practice every quarter, which is almost equivalent to going into battle. More work is put on the guns in this practice than during the war, and they have stood the strain excellently," Philadelphia Record.

LOST AND FOUND STORIES.

Strange Ways in Which Some Missing Things Were Recovered.

A governess in an English family was one day walking in the kitchen garden with the two children under her charge. In pulling at her hands as she walked between them the children loosened a ring on her finger, and it fell off and disappeared. They all looked for it long and carefully, but it could not be found. The governess went home for her holiday a month later, and took with her a basket of garden vegetables as a present for her mother from the parents of her pupils. One of the first things take out of the basket was a fine head of cabbage, with a close green heart, among the curled leaves of which was discovered the lost ring.

A young woman took off her rings at the bathroom washstand one night, washed her hands with soap and some oatmeal and went to bed, forgetting her rings. The next morning one of the rings was missing. She searched everywhere for it, but without finding it. Two or three years afterward the bathroom was torn away for the purpose of putting in improvements, and in the wall was found the skeleton of a mouse, with the lost ring around its neck. The mouse had evidently gone to the washstand for the oatmeal, and had accidentally run its head into the ring, from which it could not afterward free itself.

An English officer in India bought a fine diamond from a Sepoy, and had it set in a ring. Several years later, when he was in London on leave, he missed the diamond; it had fallen out of its setting and was gone, he had no idea where. He found it a week afterward lying in one corner of a partly-dark hallway at his club. Three years after that he was again on leave, and was shooting in Scotland. Having come upon some grouse he was raising his gun to shoot when he suddenly noticed that the diamond was again missing from his ring. As he had imagined no miles of moor that he had seemed hopeless, and he gave the stone up as lost for good this time. Suddenly, for a reason that he could never give, he thought the diamond might be in his gun, and having drawn the charge he found the stone with the powder.

When a certain old house in West Philadelphia was torn down last year to make room for a new one the workmen found in one of the chimneys a skeleton cat with a skeleton rat in its mouth.

The writer of this article once had a small pin set with pearls and a diamond—all of which, unfortunately, were quite small. One day, while wearing the pin in his scarf, he was walking on the street, and as he stepped across a cellar grating he felt something strike the top of his foot, and looked down in time to see the pin bound from his foot across the grating to the flagging. It had dropped from his scarf just when he was over the grating, and if it had not struck his foot it would have gone down through the grating and been lost. Two years after that he lost the pin in some way wholly unknown, and had given up all search for it; he had even forgotten it, when one day the old negro gardener brought it to him with particles of dirt clinging all over it. The old man was putting the garden walks in order with spade and hoe, and while at this work he found the pin, where it had lain for about two years.

Government Control of Aerograms.

A French Presidential decree reserves to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs the sole right of establishing and working wireless telegraph stations, with the exception of the public services for official business, and individuals for private messages, on certain conditions, and by authorization of the Minister for Commerce and Industry.

A Costly Break.

When a woman starts to break into society her husband is due to break through his bank account.—New York Press.

The Moslems Pray Always

Religion Colors Social Customs—The Traditions of the Prophet Rule the Faithful From the Time They Get Up in the Morning Until They Go to Bed at Night.

RELIGION plays a great part in the life of the children of the faith, that is, with their dressing, beginning with their toilet, and bathing and the combing of their hair and the cutting of their nails.

A pious Moslem, before wearing any new article of clothing, performs his ablutions and prostrates himself twice in prayer. A man of less devout, but a more superstitious, trend of mind contents himself with consulting the talisman or the estekharez, muttering to himself ere he dons the garment, "In the name of God the merciful and clement." His friends on seeing the new apparel cry out, "May it be auspicious!" The rewards of a man who says his prayers before putting on a new suit of clothes will be in proportion to the number of threads in the cloth. Hence it has come to be a practice to preserve the material from the blight of the evil eye by besprinkling it with pure water over which a prescribed passage of the Koran has been read. The laity must be seated when dressing, whereas the priests must stand up and put on their turbans.

It is unlucky for a Moslem to sit down before taking off his shoes. When drawing them on it is equally unlucky for him to stand up. The custom, in the first instance, is to rise, doffing first the left shoe and then the right one. The procedure must be reversed in every particular when putting them on.

The application of the juice of the marshmallow as an emollient for the hair is strongly recommended by the saints. Their object in heaping this advice to the consideration of their flock was not to incite vanity. They had a higher aim than that. Their desire was to stave off starvation from the fold, for that, in their opinion, would be the result of using the lotion on an ordinary day of the week; while rubbing the head vigorously with the precious juice on the Moslem Sabbath would be certain to preserve the skin from leprosy and the mind from madness. To the use of a decoction of the leaves of the lote tree a divine relief is attributed. The smell of it on the hair of the most unregenerate has on Satan an effect so disheartening that he will cease from leading them into temptation for no less than seventy days.

A respite of forty days from the snares of the devil is granted to the pious Moslem who can find leisure to comb his beard four score times and ten between sunrise and sunset. The pressure of the grave will also be mitigated by a skillful and untiring application of the comb in this life. The first blessing of the comb was revealed to Iman Jafar, the second to Mohammed the Prophet. Women are not excluded from the benefits above mentioned. But, remember, the combing of the hair must not be done in a frivolous, much less a perfunctory fashion. Far from it. A prayer must be said ere the comb can be touched, after which the hair may be reduced to order, though care must be taken to comb the middle first, and then to the right side and last of all the left. On no account whatever must the hair be neglected, for the simple reason that Satan is attracted by disheveled locks.

A mullah's beard is an object of veneration to his flock. He may trim it, but he should grow as wild as a Jew's, but he is forbidden by tradition to shave it. Even the scissors must be piled sparingly and to the accompaniment of prayer. Perhaps the orthodox length of this almost divine appendage of the true Moslem is the length of the wearer's hand from the point of the chin downward. This is known as a ghazeb or handful.

The soul of the believer is in danger every time he forgets to cut his shah, that is, the lower part of his mustache, which should be reduced to bristles once a week. Satan will be distracted if he fulfill the tradition on the day he cut, beginning with the thumb and then the fingers of the left hand, on the same holy day, the fingers will suffer no pain forever more.

If a Moslem gazes into a looking-glass before saying his prayers, he will be guilty of worshipping his own likeness, however unsightly it may appear in his eyes. The hand must be drawn across the forehead, ere the hair or the beard be adjusted, or the mirror will reflect a mind given over to vanity, which is a grievous, if universal sin. The new moon must be seen "on the face" of a friend, on the copy of the Koran, or on a turquoise stone. Unless one of these conditions be observed there is no telling what evil might happen.

SENSE OF HEARING.

As the sense of sight gives rise to devotional exercises, so also does the sense of hearing. The holy Moslem must bend a prayerful ear to the cries of the muezzin during the first two sentences, and when the summons to prayer is over he must rub his eyes with his fingers. The true believer whenever he hears the Surah Sujdah read in the Koran, must prostrate himself and repeat the words after a given prayer, on hearing the chirping of certain birds or the cries of certain animals. If he hear a Moslem sneeze he must say, "Peace be with thee!" If the sneeze be repeated, he must exclaim, "Mayest thou be cured!" If he sneeze himself he must read a few verses of the Koran; but, if a Kafr sneeze, the response must be expressed in the wish to see him tread "the straight path."

Imam Hussein has laid down twelve rules to be observed at meal times. The first four are essential to the salvation of all true Moslems. They must not forget to say "Bismillah" before tasting each dish; they must refrain from eating of the forbidden viands; they must end by returning thanks to God, and they should assure themselves that the food laid before them has been bought with money ob-

tained from a legal source. This commandment is often broken both by the host and by the guests. The second four, though not generally followed, are admitted by all to be "good form," and consist of washing the hands before meat, in sitting down inclined to the left, in eating with the thumb and the first two fingers of the right hand, which must be kept specially clean for the purpose. The last four rules deal with matters of social etiquette. They are kept by most Mohammedans in polite society and run as follows: One must not stretch across the tablecloth but should partake only of such dishes as are within one's reach; one should not overload one's mouth, nor forget to masticate the food thoroughly; and one should keep the eyes downcast and the tongue silent.

It is a tradition that washing the hands before meals will materially help the true Moslem to grow rich and be the means of delivering him from all diseases. If he rubs his eyes immediately after the ablution they will never be sore. The left hand must not be used in eating unless the right be disabled. When drinking water he must sit down and take three draughts. Most of the Mohammedans use odd-shaped drinking vessels made of baked clay, which have two orifices: the one at the top is called the "mouth," and the other, which runs through a projected tube at the side, is known as the "neck." The drinker must be careful not to lay his lips to the "mouth," which is the dwelling place of the young devils or Mohammedan giants.

THE TOOTHPICK.

All true Moslems when eating must begin with salt and finish with vinegar. If they begin with salt they will escape the contagion of seventy diseases. If they finish with vinegar their worldly prosperity will continue to increase. The host is in etiquette bound to be the first to start eating and the last to leave off. Toothpicking is considered an act of grace in the true Moslem, for Gabriel is reported to have brought a toothpick from heaven for the prophet after every meal. The priests receive certain passages of the Koran before and after lunch and dinner and also before drinking water at any hour of the day.

The pious believer, before going to bed, must perform his ablutions and say his prayers.

Prayers are also said against mosquitoes and other insects. This cleanses the conscience of the true Moslem, if it fall in preserving the skin. The Eastern peoples in general and the Mohammedans in particular are early risers. Sleep after morning prayers, which are said before sunrise, is sure to cause folly; sleep in the middle of the day is regarded as necessary and suitable to work; and sleep before evening prayers has the same effect as that after the devotions of the early morning. The Mohammedans believe that the prophets slept on their backs, so as to be able to converse with the angels at any hour of the night; that the faithful should sleep on their right sides, and the Kafir on their left, and that the doves take their rest on their stomachs.

How Rothschild Heard of Waterloo.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, in his speech as Chairman of the Newspaper Press Fund dinner in London the other day, demolished the tradition about the way in which his grandfather obtained advance news of the victory at Waterloo. According to the current story, which even the Encyclopedia Britannica repeats, Nathan Mayer Rothschild was present at the battle, and hurried back to London as soon as he saw it was decided, getting there some hours before the news became known, and making enormous profits by buying up stocks.

His grandson told the newspaper men that "the accurate story would appeal to them as journalists, viz., that the news came through the medium of a small Dutch newspaper. The news was published in a single line—'Great victory of the English at Amsterdam.' His grandfather, who was the owner of some ships, told his captains that whenever they went anywhere they were always to bring him the latest newspapers. One of these trusted captains arrived with a paper announcing the great victory. His grandfather, who believed, as they all did now, in the accuracy of all newspapers, immediately took the news to the Treasury and gave the information to Lord Liverpool. He did not tell him how he knew it, and his news was scouted because the intelligence had arrived of the defeat of the English troops on the previous day."

Hellgoland Disappearing.

As it was reported from Hellgoland that considerable masses of land had fallen into the sea during the winter storms the Kaiser visited the island a few weeks ago to see for himself what effect this was likely to have on the fortifications. His Majesty evidently regarded the situation seriously, for shortly afterward a number of Government officials crossed over to make a thorough investigation. It now transpires that these gentlemen have given up the island for lost. It is particularly the western side of the island where the famous grottoes are situated that is being rapidly disintegrated.

Eight hundred years ago the island was five times its present size, and as the crumbling away of the rock is due solely to geological causes, it is admitted that human skill and power can do nothing to avert its complete disappearance. The rock of which the island is composed contains a large percentage of salt which nothing can protect from dissolution by the North Sea. Germans are now more than ever confirmed in their opinion that Bismarck made an extremely bad bargain when he made an exchange with England taking over Hellgoland.—London Chronicle.

PHOTOGRAPH OF A FRENCH DUEL.



THE DUEL BETWEEN M. LABERDESQUE AND M. DE VILETTE, AT NEUILLY.
—From Collier's Weekly.

sands. The competitions will consist of two-minute bouts, and will stop at the first blood." The first public event of this kind took place early in March at Neuilly, near Paris, the fighting cocks (or hens) to lead off being M. Laberdesque and M. de Vilette. The latter received a scratch on the forehead. Then the police intervened. After a perfunctory though clamorous official demonstration, the officers of the law withdrew, and then the series of duels continued and more of the brave Gallic birds bled for fun.—Collier's Weekly.

RACING ON THE SAND, A NEW SPORT

By Day Allen Willey.

THE eastern coast of Florida, between Daytona and Ormond includes a stretch of sand which is about thirty miles in length and remarkable for its smooth and hard surface. It is so firm that it is utilized as a boulevard by horse vehicles of various kinds and by automobiles, bicycles, and by what are loosely termed "sand-sailers." During the winter season, when the resorts mentioned are largely patronized, nearly every variety of vehicle operated by steam or gasoline can be seen upon the beach. The photographs show a collection of the various automobiles which have been used here during the past winter. They include not only a break, but runabouts of various kinds. In the picture are no less than seven different kinds of autos, including the motor bicycle.

The "sand-sailers" consist of a framework spread on three bicycle wheels, to which is attached an ordinary sprit sail. The rear wheel is used to steer the "craft," and it can be operated quite close to the wind, while in running before the wind it frequently attains a very high speed. Some of the bicyclists who use the beach for a course have fitted up sails which are

then hundreds of people have made pilgrimages to the place. The chapel is simply crowded with tablets, sacred icons and other tributes of the faithful.

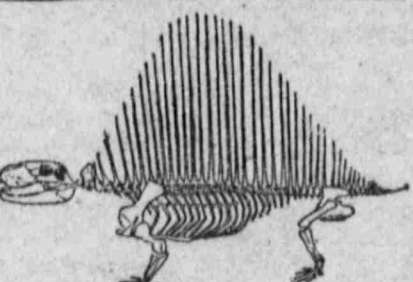


A CHAPEL BUILT FROM THE RUINS OF A MEDIAEVAL CHURCH WHICH WAS DISCOVERED THROUGH A DREAM.
—(From a Photo.)

The woman whose dream led to its discovery is the presiding genius of the place, and receives so many gifts from the worshippers that she is already quite rich. Our photograph shows the dream church and its discoverer, with her children.—The Wide World Magazine.

The Source of Supply.

At last the doctor consented to smile, the nurse was already laughing; the shadow had been lifted from the sick-room, and everything was well; and after profusely bathing her eyes Aunt Jennie came down to the breakfast table where her two small nieces were seated, wondering what had turned the house so topsy-turvy that morning. "Guess what I know, girls?" she said, gayly. "There is a little baby



A STRANGE ANIMAL OF ANCIENT TIMES

of the stage, long since forgotten, for our delectation. Head down and tail exposed is the way that ammonoid known as "Embolophorus dolloianus" was discovered. The strata was slightly inclined and composed of peculiarly refractory cement of iron and sand, which made the extraction of the bones a matter of extreme difficulty and patience.

Patience ultimately had its reward and the specimen proved to be nearly anatomically complete, the only parts lacking being the ribs and part of the feet, which were present in other specimens of the same animal. The restoration here shown was made after a most careful study, measurement and comparison with all bones of like creature. The body is drawn somewhat elevated from the ground, but an attempt to place the bones of the fore limb in such a position showed such not to have been the case with the animal. The tail would naturally seem to have been pretty long, if for no other reason than to preserve the symmetry of the animal, but the bones prove otherwise. When alive Embolophorus dolloianus must have been about the size of a pony, only of vastly different appearance and possessed of the habits of an alligator.

A Remnant of Old Newgate.

The most notorious part of the whole structure—and which yet remains—was the press yard. Here it was that pelted forte et dure was inflicted upon prisoners charged with felony who with the view of saving their property from confiscation, refused to plead at the bar. This dreadful punishment of being pressed to death was, however, abolished in 1772. A Major Strangways, who was indicted for murder, having refused to plead, was condemned to this savage pelted forte et dure. He died in eight minutes, and many of those who witnessed the dreadful sight threw stones at him to hasten his end.—Chambers's Journal.

Mere Opinion.

A woman isn't old as long as she can keep her daughter in short skirts. People who are disposed to cry over spilled milk have damp handkerchiefs most of the time.

It isn't always the most powerful locomotive that has the biggest whistle. There is many a man who would be willing to lose the respect of a town-shipful of people in order to win a \$2 prize.—Chicago Record-Herald.



VARIOUS TYPES OF SELF-PROPELLED VEHICLES USED ON THE BEACHES OF FLORIDA.

—From the Scientific American.

fastened to a mast attached to the framework, and are used in coasting before the wind.

Caged Birds Live Longest.

Many people declaim against the cruelty of keeping birds in cages, but it is a well-proved truth that cage-birds live about six times as long as a wild bird, and the bird invariably becomes so fond of its owner and its surroundings that, when the cage is thrown open, it will not fly away. It suffers so little from solitude that, if a prospective mate is introduced, it hits her on the head at first for her impudence in daring to intrude into a private apartment.—New York Press.

The British Officer.

The dash and bravery displayed by the little British force in the storming of Kano were quite up to the traditions of the service. The British officer may be criticised for lack of "dignity," but when it comes to heading straight into an ugly breach he can give them all cards and spades.—Ottawa Citizen.